

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus for detecting a biological target, , the apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a) a support surface;
 - 3 b) glycopolymers, able to bind with surface target-associated molecular patterns of the
 - 4 target, coating the support surface; and
 - 5 c) transduction means for detecting a binding event between the glycopolymers and the
 - 6 glycoconjugates.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support surface is selected from a group consisting of
 - 2 (A) an ELISA plate, (B) a plate for surface acoustic wave measurement, (C) a surface on a
 - 3 quartz crystal microbalance, (D) a surface on a transduction means sensitive to changes in mass,
 - 4 (E) a surface on an electrochemical device, (F) a surface on an ion sensitive electrode, (G) a
 - 5 surface on an ion selective field effect transistor, (H) a surface on a light emitting surface, and
 - 6 (I) a surface on an optically active surface.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are carbohydrates appended to
 - 2 polymers.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are sugar molecules conjugated with
 - 2 covalent linking.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the covalent linking uses ester or amide bonding.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are sugar molecules linked, through
 - 2 ionic or other non-covalent interactions, with conjugating molecules.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the conjugating molecules are selected from a group of
 - 2 conjugating molecules consisting of (A) small molecular bifunctional linkers, (B) small
 - 3 molecular multifunctional linkers, (C) tethers, (D) dendrimers of various generations, (E)
 - 4 synthetic macromolecules, and (F) natural macromolecules.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the polymers are polyacrylamide (PAA).

- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are fluorescent.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are multivalent.
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are monovalent.
- 1 12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the glycopolymers are polyvalent.
- 1 13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for detecting a binding event is antibody color
2 detection.
- 1 14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the biological target is a bacterial spore.
- 1 15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the biological target is *Bacillus cereus* spores.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns include at least
2 two of Gal α 1-3 GalNAc α -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-4 Glc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target is *Bacillus thuringiensis* spores.
- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns include at least
2 two of Fuc α 1-4 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Fuc α 1-3 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target is *Bacillus subtilis* spores.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns at least two of
2 GlcNAc β 1-4 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-3 Gal β -PAA-flu.
- 1 21. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target is *Bacillus pumilus* spores.
- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns include at least
2 two of Gal β 1-3 GalNAc β -PAA-flu , Gal α 1-3GalNAc α -PAA-flu.

1 23. A method for fabricating a glycoconjugate sensor for sensing a target, the method
2 comprising:
3 a) coating a support surface with glycopolymers able to bind with target-associated
4 molecular patterns on a surface of the target; and
5 b) incorporating means to detect a binding event between target-associated molecular
6 patterns on the surface of the target and the glycopolymers.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the surface target-associated molecular patterns are
2 identified by fluorophore assisted carbohydrate electrophoresis analysis.

1 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising identifying carbohydrate binding partners able
2 to bind with the target-associated molecular patterns.

1 26. The method of claim 23 wherein the support surface is an ELISA plate.

1 27. The method of claim 23 wherein the glycopolymers are carbohydrates appended to
2 polymers, and wherein the polymers are polyacrylamide (PAA).

1 28. The method of claim 23 wherein the glycopolymers are fluorescent.

1 29. The method of claim 23 wherein the glycopolymers are multivalent.

1 30. The method of claim 23 wherein the glycopolymers are monovalent.

1 31. The method of claim 23 wherein the glycopolymers are polyvalent.

1 32. The method of claim 23 wherein the support surface is an ELISA plate, and
2 wherein the act of coating a support surface includes
3 i) coating wells of an ELISA plate with glycopolymers;
4 ii) incubating the coated plate;
5 iii) washing the incubated coated plate;
6 iv) blocking the washed, incubated, coated plate; and
7 v) incubating the blocked plate.

- 1 33. The method of claim 23 wherein the target is *Bacillus cereus* spores.
- 1 34. The method of claim 33 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of Gal α 1-3
2 GalNAc α -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-4 Glc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 35. The method of claim 23 wherein the target is *Bacillus thuringiensis* spores.
- 1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of Fuc α 1-4
2 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Fuc α 1-3 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 37. The method of claim 23 wherein the target is *Bacillus subtilis* spores.
- 1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of GlcNAc β 1-4
2 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-3 Gal β -PAA-flu.
- 1 39. The method of claim 23 wherein the target is *Bacillus pumilus* spores.
- 1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two Gal β 1-3 GalNAc
2 β -PAA-flu, Gal α 1-3GalNAc α -PAA-flu.
- 1 41. A method for detecting target entities in solution, the method comprising:
2 a) exposing a sensor coated with glycopolymer substrate to a solution containing targets
3 with target-associated molecular patterns on their surfaces;
4 b) allowing specific binding between the target-associated molecular patterns on the
5 surface of the target and glycopolymers of the sensor to occur; and
6 c) identifying specific binding, if any, between the target-associated molecular patterns
7 on the surfaces of the targets and the glycopolymers of the sensor.
- 1 42. The method of claim 41 wherein the act of identifying specific binding is based on a
2 colorimetric reaction.
- 1 43. The method of claim 42 wherein the colorimetric reaction is quantifiable by
2 spectrophotometric analysis.

- 1 44. The method of claim 41 wherein the sensor is an ELISA glycoconjugate sensor.
- 1 45. The method of claim 41 wherein the specific binding is a carbohydrate interaction with the
2 target.
- 1 46. A product for recognizing target entities in solution, the product comprising:
2 a) a support surface;
3 b) glycopolymers, able to bind with target-associated molecular patterns on a surface of
4 the target, coating the support surface.
- 1 47. The product of claim 46 wherein the support surface is an ELISA plate.
- 1 48. The product of claim 46 wherein the glycopolymers are carbohydrates appended to
2 polymers.
- 1 49. The product of claim 48 wherein the polymers are polyacrylamide (PAA).
- 1 50. The product of claim 46 wherein the glycopolymers are fluorescent.
- 1 51. The product of claim 46 wherein the glycopolymers are multivalent.
- 1 52. A system for detecting a biological target in solution, the system comprising:
2 a) a solution including glycopolymers, able to bind with target-associated molecular
3 patterns on a surface of the target; and
4 b) transduction means for detecting a binding event between the glycopolymers and the
5 target-associated molecular patterns.
- 1 53. The system of claim 52 wherein the glycopolymers are fluorescent.
- 1 54. The system of claim 52 wherein the glycopolymers are multivalent.
- 1 55. The system of claim 52 wherein the glycopolymers are monovalent.

- 1 56. The system of claim 52 wherein the glycopolymers are polyvalent.
- 1 57. The system of claim 52 wherein the biological target is a bacterial spore.
- 1 58. The system of claim 52 wherein the biological target is *Bacillus cereus* spores.
- 1 59. The system of claim 58 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of Gal α 1-3
2 GalNAc α -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-4 Glc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 60. The system of claim 52 wherein the target is *Bacillus thuringiensis* spores.
- 1 61. The system of claim 60 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of Fuc α 1-4
2 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Fuc α 1-3 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu.
- 1 62. The system of claim 52 wherein the target is *Bacillus subtilis* spores.
- 1 63. The system of claim 62 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of GlcNAc β 1-4
2 GlcNAc β -PAA-flu, Gal β 1-3 Gal β -PAA-flu.
- 1 64. The system of claim 52 wherein the target is *Bacillus pumilus* spores.
- 1 65. The system of claim 64 wherein the glycopolymers include at least two of Gal β 1-3 GalNAc
2 β -PAA-flu, Gal α 1-3GalNAc α -PAA-flu.
- 1 66. The method of claim 41 further comprising:
2 d) generating a binding curve from identified specific bindings, if any, between the
3 target-associated molecular patterns on the surface of the target and the glycopolymers of
4 the sensor; and
5 e) identifying the target using the generated binding curve.
- 1 67. The method of claim 41 wherein the sensor coated with glycopolymer substrate includes a
2 number of areas, each area having a glycopolymer with a different concentration of
3 glycoconjugates.

1 68. The method of claim 41 wherein the sensor coated with glycopolymer substrate includes a
2 number of areas, each area having a glycopolymer with a serially diluted concentration of
3 glycoconjugates.

1 69. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns are
2 glycoconjugates.

1 70. The method of claim 23 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns are
2 glycoconjugates.

1 71. The method of claim 41 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns are
2 glycoconjugates.

1 72. The product of claim 46 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns are
2 glycoconjugates.

1 73. The system of claim 52 wherein the target-associated molecular patterns are
2 glycoconjugates.